Appendix B: Some Additional Information

It has been brought to the authors’ attention that the selected glyphs for creating the Slavonic transliteration characters are optimised for vertical reading, that is, the characters are combined so that the right-hand character represents the first (initial) sound and the left-hand character represents the rime (or remainder), for example, in ⼨英微, the 微 represents the initial /v/ sound, while 英 represents the rime /in/. This representation is true for all the proposed characters, except for the abbreviations for Jesus and Christ. For these two characters, the individual elements are arranged vertically to form a single character.

This optimisation for vertical display raises the question of what if anything should be done when these characters are displayed in left-to-right, horizontal text. Based on an analysis of the texts, the authors propose that nothing special should be done for the characters when they are displayed horizontal, for the following reasons:

1) Since these characters are primarily of historical interest, they will be found in most cases displayed in a vertical environment. One-off citation examples would not change the situation, even in a left-to-right, horizontal context.

2) There are no examples of such characters being used in a left-to-right, horizontal context and so practically speaking, this issue is moot, as there would not be any historical precedent for treating them any differently. Furthermore, it can be noted that in right-to-left, horizontal contexts, the letters are written as shown (as this would be expected).

3) If these characters are to be used in left-to-right, horizontal context, then it would be best to leave them as they currently stand, since it could be conceivable to treat them as a single unit that has lost any connection to its origin. In such cases, as there are no extant examples of left-to-right, horizontal usage, the proper stacking behaviour is undefined.